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FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES MEDICAL OFFICER TREADS UNCONVENTIONAL CAREER PATH

Dr. Gary Pugh brings vast and varied experience to the position of Medical Officer for Family Health Services, and from the time he came on board on January 18 he has moved forward in a positive way to promote, protect, and improve Alabama's health.

The unusual, unconventional career path for Dr. Pugh began in oil fields around the world where he worked for 10 years after high school. His demanding manual labor jobs were in distant workplaces far from his Brewton hometown.

"Me and manual labor are good friends, and this gives me a different perspective than others may have," Dr. Pugh said. His strong work ethic cut a pattern that would be repeated many times in his professional life in the decades to come.

Oil field jobs took him to Guatemala and Saudi Arabia where he excelled as a safety supervisor because of his determination to do things right. When working in the oil field, his company needed emergency medical technicians. When he took the practicum examination, he scored 100 percent and enjoyed the work. This helped him decide on a vocation which entailed higher education.

To further their goals, his wife Kathi first went through nursing school to earn her L.P.N. to help provide the support for their financially struggling family which included two daughters. He attended Florida State University, Tallahassee, where he made the dean's list and was recognized for his volunteer work at the Telephone Counseling and Referral Service. At age 34, he completed his B.S. degree in chemical science in three years.

The field of obstetrics and gynecology was not in his plans; he was originally going into family practice. But in Tallahassee he began working as a nurse technician where his duties in the nursery included cleaning and changing diapers. Surprisingly, when he first witnessed a forceps delivery and then a C-Section, he said he became sick.

"I was sweating it, but the Lord brought me through it," he said. Since he was fairly good with computers, he said, he took an NICU position when it became open and became a NICU unit secretary.

He credited his ability to read doctors' handwriting with this promotion.

He furthered his education at Kirkville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kirkville, Mo., where he was president of his medical school class in his first year and American College of General Practitioners (ACGP) Chapter president in his second year. He advocated creating an organization for the 13 osteopathic colleges' ACGP chapters in the U.S. to improve communication among themselves. He was the first national student president of the ACGP in Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery and received leadership and achievement awards there.

He began his surgical rotation where his mentor, Dr. Ron Maddox, was an excellent surgeon who urged him to consider general surgery. As a medical student, he performed breast biopsies, laparoscopy, open abdominal cases and delivered 16 babies in one month, a record for a medical student. He became enthralled with it, became interested in OB/GYN, and realized that was what God wanted him to do.

During his residency at Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola, Fla., he became Chief Resident. Then he opened his own first practice in Opp, and later in Brewton and Andalusia. In 2005, he was given the Gift of Life Appreciation Award for service to indigent patients in Escambia and Covington counties. But he said at the end of the eleventh year of being on call 24-7, he was burned out. He took 6 months off to think and pray before



Gary D. Pugh, D.O., F.A.C.O.G.

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FREE PROSTATE CANCER SCREENINGS OFFERED

According to recent data from the National Cancer Institute, approximately 12.6 percent of men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer at some point in their lifetime. It is the second leading cause of cancer death in American men. On July 12, men 40 and older were offered a free prostate cancer screening at the Madison County Health Department in Huntsville. One hundred sixty-five men were assessed at the free screening held by the county health department and the Urology Health Foundation.

Dr. Thomas Moody, Urology Health Foundation president, says when they started this program in 2007 prostate cancer death rates in Alabama were the third highest in the nation.

"Among African American men we were the highest in the nation," Dr. Moody said. "And the reason was not enough people had the opportunity to get screened and have the opportunity for early detection."

He says if prostate cancer is caught early it's almost always curable.

"If it's caught late, it's really not," Dr. Moody added.

When prostate cancer is in its early stages there are no noticeable symptoms. According to the Urology Health Foundation, if a man with prostate cancer waits to act until he has symptoms, the cancer may already have grown outside the prostate and progressed to the point where it is rarely curable.

"Frequently I've heard men say, 'well doc, I'm not having any symptoms I don't think I need to be checked.' Well really, early prostate cancer virtually has no symptoms, so the only way to know is to be checked," Dr. Moody stated.

Moody says people most at risk for prostate cancer are Black men and men with a family history of the disease.

Screening only takes about 10 minutes and includes a blood test and physical examination.

Upcoming screenings are scheduled for August 20 at Monroe County Health Department; August 27 at Mt. Lovely Missionary Church, Camp Hill; September 17 at Perry County Health Department; October 1 at Hale County Health Department; October 29 at Wilcox County Health Department; and November 12 at Marengo County Health Department.



The Madison County Health Department and the Urology Centers of Alabama offered prostate cancer screenings on July 12. Additional screenings are scheduled for men in underserved areas.

Alabama Department of Public Health

Mission

To promote, protect, and improve Alabama's health.

Vision

Healthy People. Healthy Communities. Healthy Alabama.

Core Values

Excellence, Integrity, Innovation, and Community.

Alabama's Health

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Medical officer, continued from page 1

going on a medical mission trip to Ecuador. This missionary experience helped him realize how much he was called to practice medicine. He accepted a job in Gallup, N.M., where he became chief of obstetrics for 5 of the 6 years he was there. There was a high turnover in hospital administration, five administrators in 6 years, during which time he finally was able to complete his board certification in obstetrics and gynecology. A new challenge was to retake and pass the re-examination in his 50s, and he succeeded.

His next move was to Albuquerque, N.M., where he was staff physician and became chief of OB/GYN at Lovelace Westside Hospital. In 2014, Dr. Pugh began serving with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists on its Voluntary Review of Quality of Care panel in Washington, D.C., a position he held until accepting his state position.

Dr. Pugh and his wife decided to return to Alabama in 2015 as they had several grandchildren. Fortunately, he met ADPH's Dr. Lynda Gilliam who hired him to help start the OB Hospitalist Program and the first OB Emergency Department in the state at Huntsville Hospital. He began working as an OB hospitalist there before taking on hospitalist work in Evansville, Ind., and Birmingham where he was clinical assistant professor at the University of Alabama School of Medicine, Huntsville Regional Medical Campus Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology for 2 years.

Tired of working 12-hour shifts, alternating days and nights, he took a fulltime job at Brookwood Hospital where he worked from 2018 to 2021.

Fortunately for ADPH, Dr. Gilliam had spoken with him about health department opportunities.

"It might be time to change gears," he said, and thought it was time to return to Brewton and serve as the first district medical officer for the Southwestern/Southeastern Public Health District. Fate intervened, however, with the retirement of former Medical Officer for Family Health Services, Dr. Grace Thomas. Dr. Mary McIntyre offered him what she called "the perfect spot" in Montgomery and he started his ADPH service.

Stamping out cervical cancer and bringing a feeling of camaraderie to Family Health Services has been his goal during his ADPH tenure. He has held model clinics for nurse practitioners with the goal of training and teaching nurse practitioners to prepare them to take the American Society of Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology examination. By having certified nurse practitioners working independently in colposcopy clinics located around the state, patients can receive care closer to home.

A constant throughout his long and winding career has been the support of his wife Kathi during their 46-year marriage. He attributed his career to her encouragement. He said, "If it weren't for her, I wouldn't be here today." They now reside in Pike Road along with Kathi's 91-year-old widowed mother and their adopted son.

He said his vision is the ADPH vision, and he wants to follow it "the best way I know."

STATE EPIDEMIOLOGIST RECOGNIZED AS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA

Sherri Davidson, Ph.D., M.P.H., State Epidemiologist and Director of the Office of Informatics and Data Analysis (OIDA), was awarded the 2021 Distinguished Alumnus/Alumna Award by the UAB School of Public Health.

A news release announcing the award stated, "The mission of the UAB School of Public Health is to make positive and lasting change in the public's health through the pursuit of excellence in scholarship, teaching, and service to the larger community, and we are proud to select three graduates from our school who are executing this mission daily in their professional careers."

The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes a graduate who has shown a substantive commitment to promoting health and preventing disease. The award recognizes outstanding alumni and their contributions to the field of Public Health.

Other awards given were the Early Career Achievement Alumnus/Alumna Award and the Alumnus/Alumna of the Year Award which recognizes established alumni who graduated at least 8 years ago and have demonstrated involvement in public health-related activities outside work and are considered exemplary.



Dr. Paul Erwin is shown presenting the award to Dr. Davidson. Dr. Erwin is Dean of the UAB School of Public Health and Professor in Health Care Organization and Policy.

OIDA was established in June 2021. The office provides support and input with epidemiologic integration, analysis, interpretation, determination, visualization and dissemination.

PUBLIC HEALTH EMPLOYEES AMONG AUTHORS OF NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE ARTICLE

Alabama public health employees were among the authors recognized in a *New England Journal of Medicine* article titled "A Case Series of Children with Acute Hepatitis and Human Adenovirus Infection" which was published July 13.

Since November 2021, the department, in collaboration with pediatric healthcare providers including hospitals which treat children and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has been investigating an increase in hepatitis in previously healthy young children. These children presented to providers in different areas of Alabama with symptoms of a gastrointestinal illness and varying degrees of liver injury including liver failure. Later analyses have revealed a possible association of this hepatitis with Adenovirus 41.

ADPH issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) notification on February 1 to elicit additional cases. To date, 12 cases have been reported statewide. ADPH continues to collaborate with the CDC, Children's of Alabama, and Texas Children's. New York State Health Department Wadsworth Center and the Infectious Disease Pathology Branch at CDC performed the testing on the specimens in these cases.

To gain a better understanding of what clinicians were seeing, medical records at Children's of Alabama were queried to identify all children who had been diagnosed with acute hepatitis between October 2021 and February 2022. Of the 15 identified during the study period, 9 had an unknown cause for their hepatitis. Adenovirus was detected in 89 percent of those who had an unknown cause for their hepatitis. Two children underwent liver transplantation while all others recovered with supportive care.

The study concluded that while adenovirus was identified, causation has not been proved, and the role of adenovirus infection itself in this outbreak remains unclear. Sequencing results suggest that if human adenovirus were causative, this was not an outbreak driven by a single strain.

Among the authors listed are department employees **L. Amanda Ingram, M.P.H.**, Division of Infectious Diseases and Outbreaks; **Ali Martin, B.S.**, Bureau of Clinical Laboratories; and **Stephanie Ayers-Millsap, M.P.H.**, and **Wesley G. Willeford, M.D.**, Jefferson County Department of Health.

IN MEMORIAM – SUMMER BEARD

On Friday, April 29, 2022, Jacqueline Summer Burpee Beard, a Public Health Environmental Supervisor with the Northern Public Health District, died in a tragic incident which occurred while performing the basic duties of her job.

That evening, State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris informed public health employees statewide of her passing in an e-mail stating: "Summer was known to her coworkers as an exceptional person. She was a tremendous team worker and was loved by those who knew her. Please join me in extending sympathy to her family and friends. It is a very sad day for ADPH."

Summer was a well-respected, 17-year employee of the department who was known for her enthusiasm and dedication to Public Health. Coworkers were devastated to learn of her sudden loss and praised their colleague as outstanding, pleasant, smart, sweet, thoughtful and a good listener.

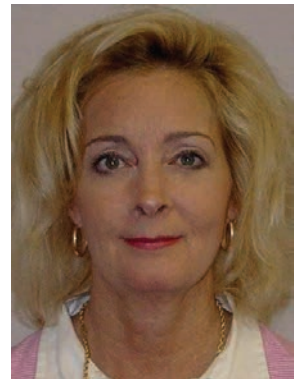
The obituary of her 58-year life journey included the following attributes: A beautiful and faithful wife, friend, sister, sister-in-law, daughter, and aunt. Summer, as she was known, was born in Athens, Ga., and raised in Riverdale, Ga. A school swimmer and basketball player, she graduated from North Clayton High School in 1981. Summer's college education began at Georgia State, where she was a member of the school's water ski team. As a young adult living in Georgia, she was an avid cyclist, scuba diver, accomplished bartender, aerobics instructor,

and international flight attendant. Other talents included being an accomplished cook, award-winning baker, self-taught painter who had a flair for vivid colors, and creative interior designer. Even though she was a University of Georgia Bulldog at heart, she ultimately graduated cum laude from Mississippi State University, settling in Muscle Shoals after a short stint in Cullman. Her degree was in broadcast meteorology,

but her calling was with the Alabama Department of Health. Summer never met a stranger. She was kind, loving and mastered the gift of gab, holding her own with the best of them. She would always lend a helping hand or give thoughtful advice, loved her work family, and wanted her counties to succeed.

Summer is survived by her father, Walter J. Burpee; sister, Stephanie Varnes (Robert); brother, Patrick Burpee (Tanya); and niece, Livija Burpee; aunt, Jennie Parham (Jimmy); cousins, Russ Parham and family, Andrea Frambrough (Chad), and Tonya Klopp (Steve); Richard Beard; and special fur babies, Greta and Cracker; William Beard; Wyatt and Allison, Will, Amalie and Catherine Beard.

A memorial service was held May 12.



SHERRY BRADLEY NAMED EXECUTIVE BRANCH EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

In celebration of State Employee Recognition Week 2022, the State Personnel Department spotlighted the achievements and contributions of state employees and selected Sherry Bradley from among all employees in every state department, agency, commission, and board for the special honor of Executive Branch Employee of the Year. Congratulations for this exceptional accomplishment.

Ms. Bradley is originally from Covington County. After earning a B.S. degree from Troy State University in Sanitary Science (now called Environmental Science), she completed an M.P.A. degree from Auburn University at Montgomery. She was first employed as a Public Health Sanitarian on September 21, 1977, and was assigned to work Bullock County.

In her 44 years of employment in environmental health, Sherry Bradley acknowledges that she has never been reluctant to work in the soil or get her hands dirty; in fact, she enjoys it. In her early days of ADPH employment, one of her first responsibilities was supervising all environmental activities in Bullock County where she would get up and be at the dairy farm by 5:30 a.m. to collect milk samples from the stainless-steel milk tank while the dairymen were milking the cows. She has since worked Autauga, Lowndes and Elmore counties before being promoted to the Central Office by Jack Brewer, then Director of Community Environmental Protection.

As the years have passed, her career has progressed from an entry-level public health sanitarian to assistant director, and for the past 8 years directing the bureau which has a vital presence in all corners of the state. Throughout her tenure, she has dealt with environmental health concerns of the public ranging from A to Zika virus. Her everyday matters of concern include regulations of onsite sewage disposal systems permitting, installation and maintenance, food service safety, milk and food processing, seafood safety, insect and animal nuisances, tattooing, and even bedbugs in lodging facilities. On occasion, she and her fellow environmentalists have weathered the elements to work in disaster situations including the aftermath of devastating floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, an oil spill, and most recently assisting the public during the COVID-19 pandemic by staffing testing and vaccination sites.

In the past few years, Ms. Bradley has focused on making effective and reliable wastewater disposal available to Alabama residents, especially people living in homes in the Black Belt, which have straight-piped, failing or nonexistent sewage disposal systems. The clay-like Black Belt soil makes it hard for filtration of water in these soils. Finding no local ordinances on the books, she worked from the ground up to learn about impediments such as unclear family property ownership and sewage disposal systems that cost more than the value of homes.

Addressing these needs has been a mammoth challenge, Ms Bradley said, especially with gaining the trust of local residents. Local community leader Perman Hardy has assisted her in the effort that created the nonprofit Black Belt Unincorporated Wastewater Program (BBUWP) in 2018. BBUWP's mission is building a sanitation infrastructure for low-income residents. Her pursuit for solutions involved studying wastewater disposal in remote areas and even took her to Alaska where sewage disposal problems are similar to those in the Black Belt.

Progress has clearly been made, and her activities have resulted in international attention and acclaim, including an appearance on the famed CBS program 60 Minutes. Her work was featured in the four-part Paramount Plus Wasteland documentary series, and her activism has yielded positive results. BBUWP partnered with the International Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Foundation (IWISH) and in March 2022, volunteers from IWISH came to Lowndes County where they installed hot water heaters, toilets and fixtures for low-income residents at no charge.

An application for a USDA \$2.1 million grant to install onsite sewage disposal systems in Lowndes County was supported by the Governor's Office allocating at least \$300,000 towards match funding, \$180,000 from ADPH, \$5,000 from a former Lowndes County Commissioner, and \$135,000 from the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

In addition, several meetings have been held with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management to address rural sewage and wastewater issues. Funds are being provided through a bipartisan infrastructure bill for a \$2.2 million pilot project for the Lowndes County Unincorporated area.

In addition to her many work responsibilities, Ms. Bradley is the legal guardian for her disabled nephew who lives in Montgomery.



State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris presents the Award of Excellence certificate to Sherry Bradley.

NASTAD PRESENTS SERVICE AWARD TO SHARON JORDAN

Sharon Jordan, director of the Office of HIV Prevention and Care, was presented the National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors' (NASTAD) Service Award at the alliance's 30th Anniversary Annual Meeting May 22-25 in Washington, D.C. The group is represented by state, city, county and territorial AIDS directors.

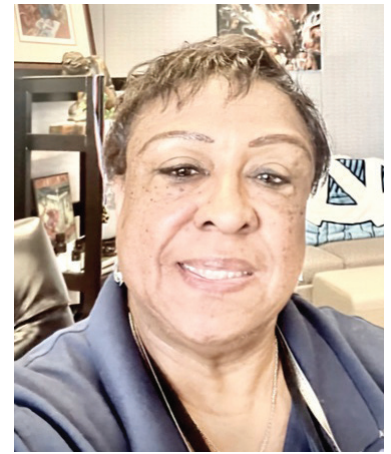
The meeting addressed the challenges and opportunities health departments are currently facing in administering HIV and hepatitis programs. The theme of the meeting was "Implementing Strategic Visions to End the Epidemics." The meeting offered many opportunities for meaningful exchange among peers, partners, and federal agency representatives.

The award was presented in recognition of Ms. Jordan's "outstanding contribution to the fight against HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and intersecting epidemics" as well as her service to NASTAD." Ms. Jordan recently completed 3 years' service on

the NASTAD Executive Board. She has been affiliated with this organization since 1992.

NASTAD's strategic priorities are as follows:

- A. Strengthen public health systems for HIV and hepatitis prevention, surveillance and care.
- B. Advance health and racial equity, and stigma elimination, focusing on disparately impacted communities.
- C. Implement integrated approaches to HIV, hepatitis, STIs, harm reduction and the social determinants of health.
- D. Strengthen organizational excellence within NASTAD and its member jurisdictions.



Sharon V. Jordan, B.S., M.P.H.

GADSDEN EVENT OFFERS FREE MEDICAL CARE TO UNINSURED AND UNDERINSURED



More than 600 people attended a Remote Area Medical Volunteer Corps (RAM) event April 23-24 in Gadsden during which medical, dental and vision services were provided at no charge. Among the Northeastern District employees who took part are shown, left to right, social workers Paula Ball, Stephanie Weathers and Joyce Patterson; registered nurses Kirby McBride, Cassie Decker and Colleen Green; administrative support assistant Greg Pfeiffer; and (seated) Mark Johnson, assistant district administrator.



Dental screenings and treatments were provided to more than 400 underserved people at the full-scale pop-up clinic. Sixty dental chairs and nearly 150 dental volunteers assisted. Other services offered included blood pressure and diabetes screenings and a mobile vision lab that provided prescription frames on the same day.

STATE HEALTH LEADERS TAKE TOUR

Members of the State Committee of Public Health toured the Bureau of Clinical Laboratories, Public Health Training Center, and Administrative Annex as a group for the first time on April 7. The COVID-19 pandemic had delayed the committee's introductory tour of the state-of-the-art facilities which opened in August 2020.



APHCA BOARD MEMBERS RECOGNIZED

State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris recognized two members of the Alabama Public Health Care Authority Board April 28 in Greenville. Evelyn Finklea served on the board for 22 years. She retired in 2021 with more than 25 years of service as a Home Health

Nurse Supervisor with the Monroe County Health Department. Dr. Harris also presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Monique Tucker, administrative support assistant at the Monroe County Health Department, for her 9 years of service on the board.



PUBLIC HEALTH CELEBRATES STATE EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION WEEK

Gov. Kay Ivey issued a proclamation of State Employee Recognition for the week of May 2-6, "to recognize the men and women who make a difference in our daily lives and express appreciation this week and throughout the year."

Employees in the RSA Tower took a break on May 4 to enjoy games, music and entertainment in observance of the week. District administrators also planned events for county health department employees throughout the state.



Central Office employees danced to the music in the RSA Park.



Some employees mastered the skills of hula hooping.



State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris joined the festivities at the RSA Tower Park that included jumping rope.



Monroe County employees enjoyed refreshments.

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Geneva County



Clarke County



Marengo County



Baldwin County/ Robertsdale



Crenshaw County



Washington County

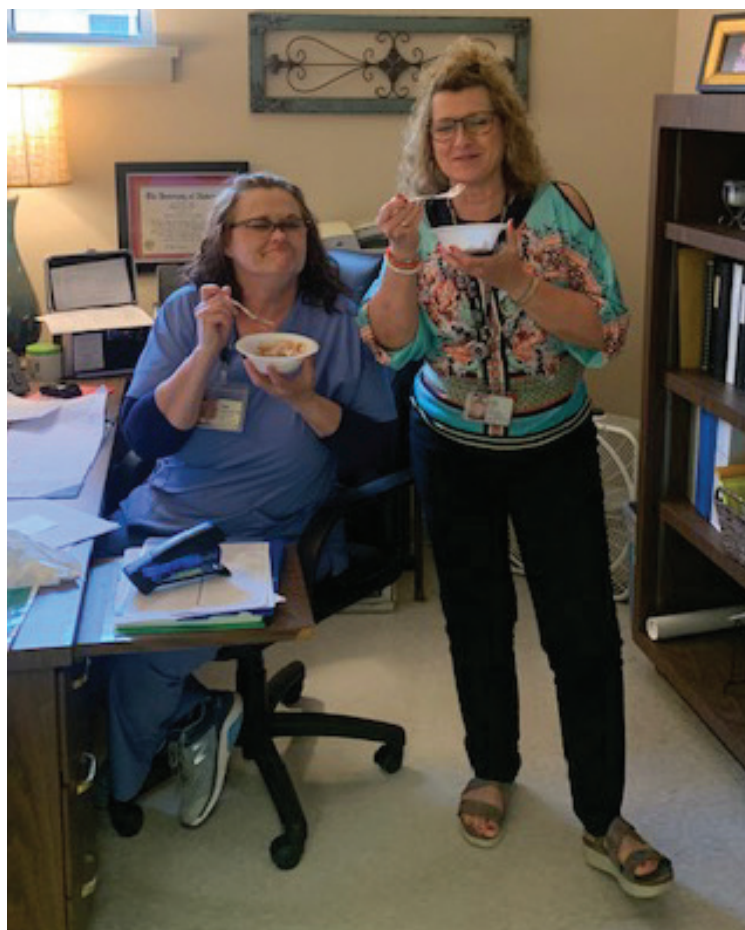
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The St. Clair County Health Department staff made heart-shaped crafts during their Employee Appreciation Week luncheon.



Walker County



Lamar County

Ice cream and all the toppings were enjoyed by employees of the West Central District during Employee Recognition Week. Above are photos from one of the ice cream socials.

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Marshall County



Madison County



Jackson County

Cake was the order of the day for employees in each of the 12 counties of the Northern Public Health District.

#WATCHYOURMOUTH CAMPAIGN FEATURED NATIONALLY

*The United States Public Health Services Chief Dental Officer newsletter featured an article about the Oral Cancer Awareness Campaign **#WATCHYOURMOUTH**, a collaborative campaign between the Oral Health Office and the University of South Alabama Mitchell Cancer Institute, in its July 1 issue. The article is reprinted here.*

What if there were a cure for cancer?

What if there were no need for one?

The HPV- 9 vaccine protects against 9 types of HPV which causes most cancers, including both cervical and oropharyngeal. While its efficacy is irrefutable, much of the population, as well as many providers, are unaware of the vaccine's cancer prevention effectiveness. The need to provide education about the vaccine to increase vaccine uptake forged a formidable partnership between two organizations determined to lessen the (current) incidence (12th) and mortality rates (3rd) of these cancers in Alabama.

In 2018, Tommy Johnson, DMD, Alabama Department of Public Health Oral Health Office, and Casey L. Daniel, PhD, MPH, University of Alabama Mitchell Cancer Institute, met when attending an Alabama Comprehensive Cancer Control

Coalition meeting. Immediately, the common goal to promote the HPV vaccine, focusing particularly on HPV-related cancers of the oral cavity and head and neck, was acknowledged. The culmination of efforts resulted in a medical-dental integration campaign known as **#WATCHYOURMOUTH!**

The campaign features a multifactorial approach targeting dental and medical providers, as well as the general population. Example components of the campaign include: Proclamation signed by Governor; direct mail outs to Alabama dentists and hygienists; dental professional CE credit development; Light Up Alabama Red!, illuminating buildings and other facilities throughout Alabama in red; statewide Spectrum commercial; "My Story" video by Pat Sullivan, oral cancer survivor; tee-shirts and wristbands for UAB dental students, faculty, and ADPH staff emphasizing HPV awareness; and armbands worn by a Minor League baseball team in Birmingham, Alabama. The campaign garnered the attention of the recombinant human papillomavirus (HPV) nonvalent vaccine manufacturer vaccine manufacturer resulting in national and state organization referrals with whom to share our efforts.

For more information, please email Tommy.Johnson@adph.state.al.us or cldaniel@health.southalabama.edu.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF PROMOTE SERVICES AT VALLEY LIONS CLUB MEETING

Caring, quality services are provided by every county health department. To help spread the word about the department and activities to address local health needs, Tracy Taylor, lead nurse for the Chambers County Health Department, and Karen Earles, administrative support assistant, were invited to speak to the Valley Lions Club.

Taylor, a nurse since 1986 who has been employed with the department the past 14 years, discussed the wide variety of services provided to the public regardless of social circumstances or the ability to pay. The Valley Times-News published an article about the meeting in its May 19 issue. The article included the statement that public health services affect every person in the county, not just those who walk through health department doors. In interacting with local community and business leaders, Taylor described the organizational structure and mentioned newer services offered such as HPV vaccinations and telehealth. She described procedures for COVID-19 testing, obtaining vital records available electronically in 30 minutes or less, disease prevention and control, and environmental services..



Photo by Wayne Clark
Courtesy of Valley-Times News

Shown from left are Lions Club member LD Marshall, Karen Earles, Tracy Taylor, and Lions Club President Phillip Sparks.

RETIREES

The following departmental employees have retired recently:

APRIL

Gwendolyn Alewine

Northern Public Health District

Sherrilyn Arrington

East Central Public Health District

Sheri Carlisle

Southwestern Public Health District

Phyllis Cleveland

Center for Emergency Preparedness

Teresa Knowles

East Central Public Health District

Donna McGraw

Southwestern Public Health District

Sonja McSwain

Northern Public Health District

Jamie Medley

Northern Public Health District

Marilyn Patterson

Children's Health Insurance Program

Doren Watkins

East Central Public Health District

Shanda Wilkins

Southeastern Public Health District

MAY

Annie Blackmon

West Central Public Health District

Gwendolyn Cox

East Central Public Health District

Jessica Hardy

Family Health Services

Cynthia Henderson

Prevention, Promotion and Support

Annette Hurst

Health Care Facilities

Maxine Robinson

East Central Public Health District

Mark Sestak

Food, Milk, and Lodging

JUNE

William Duncan

Family Health Services

Valerie Lewis

Health Provider Standards

Bronett Terrell

Family Health Services

JULY

Tonya Blankenship

Health Care Facilities

Jennifer Kellon

East Central Public Health District

Luzenia Lawson

East Central Public Health District

Helen Norberg

Northeastern Public Health District

Linda Owens

Southeastern Public Health District

Teela Sanders

Children's Health Insurance Program

AUGUST

Sandra Frazier

East Central Public Health District

Gregory Holmes

Northern Public Health District

SEPTEMBER

Dana Billingsley

General Counsel

Myron Riley

Office of Radiation Control



Mary G. McIntyre, M.D., M.P.H., Chief Medical Officer, was feted to a retirement celebration April 22 in recognition of her quarter century of state service. State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris is shown with her as friends, family and colleagues wished her well.



STATE COMBINED CAMPAIGN BENEFIT

The Bureau of Prevention, Promotion, and Support sold Central Office employees in the RSA Tower sack lunches in a Hot Dog Fundraiser June 17. Proceeds benefit the State Combined Campaign. Organizers shown are Betsy Cagle (kneeling), and (left to right) Ann Colley, Savannah Fonville, Tracie Cole, Division Director Jamey Durham, Stanley Woodson and Stuart Hoyle.



Jackie Wilson retired June 1 with 35 years, 6 months of service. After beginning her career with the home health program in Public Health Area 10, she served the Alabama Breast and Cervical Center Early Detection Program for 25 years. She is shown with Southeastern Public Health District Administrator Corey Kirkland, who remarked that she "brought a wealth of experience, great work ethic and dedication to her patients."



David Turberville, left, director of the Office of Radiation Control, retired with 32 years of state service effective August 1. State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris presented him with a retirement certificate July 11.



Valerie Lewis retired June 1 from the Bureau of Health Provider Standards with 32 years of state service.

IN MEMORIAM - DR. EDWARD KHAN

The Jefferson County Department of Health (JCDH) announced that Ashraf Edward "Ed" Khan, M.D., passed away suddenly Saturday, June 18, in a motorcycle accident. Dr. Khan worked at JCDH for many years serving in various roles, including previously as Medical Director of Disease Control. A subject matter expert on various public health issues, he made dozens of media appearances, community presentations, and professional lectures. He was especially renowned for his expertise in tuberculosis and did infectious disease work in other countries including Zambia, Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Haiti, Mozambique, Kenya, South Africa, Guyana, and Guatemala. Colleagues and friends praised his kind, gentle and humble demeanor; his selflessness; and his incredible generosity toward others.



FIFTH ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST PROMOTES DENTAL SEALANTS

Two third graders were selected from photo submissions as the overall winners of the fifth annual "Share Your Smile with Alabama" campaign for 2022. Carl Shamburger of Pike Road Elementary School in Montgomery County and Edith Tulibagenyi of Daniel Pratt Elementary School in Autauga County were chosen as the contest winners. This year's National Children's Dental Health Month campaign focused on sealants, with the theme being "Sealants Make Sense." In a news release announcing the winners, State Dental Health Director Dr. Tommy Johnson stated, "Cavity-preventing sealants on permanent molars reduce the risk of dental caries by 80 percent. The American Dental Association notes that sealants are an equitable way to prevent caries and help children enjoy a lifetime of healthy, beautiful smiles."



DUMPSTER DAYS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE: A SUCCESS!

For a full work week, each floor of the Central Office was given access to an extra-large construction dumpster and five shredding containers to clean out and make room for additional items, equipment, and employees.

Each floor of the Central Office made great use of the extra-large construction dumpster by getting rid of broken and irreparable chairs, tables, desks and several other items including those that were too large to fit in a trash compactor.

The additional shredding bins helped many departments destroy files that needed to be gone, but due to the large amount were just too much for their small container. There were a few offices and bureaus in the Central Office that did not have a shredding contract with a vendor, so this was a great opportunity for them to get rid those files that have been piling up for years in those empty offices and cubicles.

Award certificates given to the bureaus and offices were as follows:

"Out With the Old, In with the New" - Health Provider Standards

"Make Room for More!" - Financial Services

"Load'em Up and Move'em Out" - Family Health Services

"Dumpster Divers Dream Award" - CHIP

"Super Shredder Award" - Keith Dykes

By providing these additional services to the Central Office many departments have freed up cubicles and offices to allow them to place employees there in the future when needed and a provide a better-looking work environment.

Yes, Dumpster Days was a success! Who will win this season?

By Keith Dykes



Central Office employees "made room for more" during Dumpster Days. Keith Dykes presents a certificate to Chief Accountant and Director of the Bureau of Financial Services Shaundra Morris.

COMMENDATIONS

If you would like to praise employees for their accomplishments, send letters of commendation to the State Health Officer or the employee's supervisor and a copy by e-mail to Arrol.Sheehan@adph.state.al.us for inclusion in this list. Four items are needed: the employee's name, work unit, name of the person making the commendation, and his or her city and state.

Izza Cagle
Michael Koko
Jim Messick
Britney Moses
Qun Zheng

Statistical Analysis
Center for Health Statistics
from Catherine Donald
Ricky Elliott
Montgomery, Ala.

Kathie Cleckler
Center for Health Statistics
from Christie
(surname not given)
Fort Payne, Ala.
Timmy Ray
Florence, Ala.
Lisa Whitehead
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Ulysses Fluellen
Lakina Miller
Russell County Health
Department
from Lucy McGuffey
Seale, Ala.

Alisha Jones
Center for Health Statistics
from Mrs. Davison
Arizona

Casandra Henderson
Center for Health Statistics
from Patricia Robinson
Address not given

April Lampley
Russell County Health
Department
City Council Member
Phenix City, Ala.

DeAnnbra Peterson
Prevention, Promotion
and Support
from Cynthia Cornelius
Montgomery, Ala.

Carlene Robinson
Prevention, Promotion
and Support
from Sandra Blakely
Montgomery, Ala.

Shayla Santiago
Center for Health Statistics
from Laura Gifford
Odenville, Ala.

CALENDAR

**AUGUST 25 • 10 A.M.-
12 NOON (CENTRAL TIME)**

**Talking to Parents and Caregivers
about Safe Sleep**

This program will describe the prevalence of SIDS in the U.S., causes and risk factors associated with SIDS, and strategies to discuss safe sleep practices with parents and caregivers. For more information, contact the Health Media and Communications Division, (334) 206-5618.